



April 6, 2010

Representative Nelson Cole  
N.C. House of Representatives  
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1218  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Re: Distributing Transportation Funds, G.S. 136-17.2

Dear Representative Cole:

The Rocky River Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is please to know that the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee is taking up the difficult issue of distributing transportation funds, commonly known as the Equity Formula.

The RPO's next scheduled meeting is not until May 18, 2010, and, at that time, a formal resolution will be finalized. It is my understanding that there is a called public hearing on April 29, thus, the following are staff's initial comments:

- 1) There is not enough money to complete needed transportation projects in the state. New revenue streams should be investigated.
- 2) Consider allocating a percentage of funds to MPOs and RPOs for designation on projects of their choice. These funds are to be totally flexible among modes.
- 3) The SPOT prioritization system—or some permutation thereof—should be used as the primary factor in funding projects. Consideration must be given to environmental evaluations and ability to deliver the projects.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Equity Formula which impacts the movement of people, goods and services across North Carolina. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 980-581-6589.

Sincerely,

*Dana Stoogenke*

Dana Stoogenke, AICP  
Director, Rocky River Rural Planning Organization

CC: Technical Coordinating Committee  
Technical Advisory Committee